



Middle Fort Pond Sewer District

West Acton Sewer Continuation Project

Frequently Asked Questions

For more information, please contact the Engineering Department (978) 929-6630

Is the Cost of sewers similar to the cost of a septic system?

Yes. The construction cost of a septic system is approximate to the sewer betterment for a single-family home. A basic cost comparison with construction quotes from septic contractors is available [on the Town's website](#).

On average, what is the cost of a septic system in West Acton?

Historic data provided [on the Town's website](#) from the Town's Title 5 septic program gave a range of \$27,000 to \$46,000 of construction costs in high-priority areas of Acton. This data was from 2014 to 2016. The cost of sewer for a single-family home in 2023 is between \$35,000 and \$39,000.

What does it cost to maintain a septic system?

It varies greatly depending on the system that you have and your septic permit requirements.

Is West Acton a “high need area” for sewers?

Yes. West Acton is high-priority area identified by the Town's [Comprehensive Water Resource Management Plan](#) recommended to connect to the existing sewer system. The plan was required and approved by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). ***Please see a [link to a map](#) which depicts priority needs areas.***

Will sewer fees go down for South Acton users if sewer is expanded to West Acton?

The cost of operating the sewer system increases every year. Sewer rates are established to cover the cost of operations. After five years it is estimated that sewer rates for South Acton will be approximately ten percent higher without West Acton added to the district.

Do septic systems fail more frequently in West Acton?

Unknown. The rate of failure is both difficult to quantify and is not particularly relevant to the question of whether sewers are more viable.

Are the soils in West Acton poor for septic systems?

No. The soil in West Acton are no different than most of Massachusetts however this was not a factor in recommending sewers in West Acton.

Are sewers better for the environment?

Yes. A sewer system is better than a septic system. This fact is supported by the following:

1. [Title 5 Regulations](#). Septic systems [are not allowed](#) if sewer is available.
2. MassDEP required the Town to develop the [Comprehensive Water Resource Management Plan](#).
3. The West Acton Sewer Project is funded by the [MA Clean Water Trust](#)

To see how wastewater is treated in Acton, please watch a [virtual tour](#) of the Acton Wastewater Treatment Plant

Are sewers good for local businesses?

Yes. The West Acton sewer project is supported by the Acton Economic Advisory Committee and several West Acton business owners supporting the sewer project [emailed](#) the West Acton Sewer Committee. [Here](#) are some responses from the West Acton business community:

“West Acton [is] a district where zoning specifically promotes and encourages the kind of vibrant mix of uses that a sewer [would] enable” – Mathias Rosenfeld, West Acton Villageworks

“Town sewer in West Acton would give us an opportunity to grow our business in new ways” – Chris Powell, Orange Door Kitchen

“There is a lot of momentum and excitement in West Acton, but in order for it to reach its potential as a vibrant, walkable commercial district, and attract more high quality businesses, we need sewer services.” – Lucy Goldstein, Wellness at Villageworks

Are sewers needed in West Acton due to high groundwater and Fort Pond Brook?

That was the recommendation of the Town’s [Comprehensive Water Resource Management Plan](#) which was developed by the Acton Citizen’s Advisory Committee (CAC) which held multiple committee meetings and public forums over several years to develop the recommendations.
